

Board meeting

Date	12th September
Time	1 hour (11:00 – 12:00)
Place	Administration Building
Participants	Ólavur Ellefsen, chair of the board <i>Marita Rasmussen, vice-chair - absent</i> Chik Collins, rector Johan Hansen, managing director Sára Joensen Svein-Ole Mikalsen Casper Rosen Guðrún Nordal Anders Bjarklev
Keeper of the minutes	Fríða S. Berg

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda and minutes from last meeting
2. Financial statement
3. Rector's presentation
4. Miscellaneous

1. Approval of agenda and minutes from last meeting

The agenda for this meeting is approved and there are no comments or corrections regarding the minutes from last meeting.

2. Financial statement

The chair informs that there is no presentation from the finance director at this meeting as the VAT (MVG) has not been lifted yet (meaning the available figures are still as presented at the previous meeting).

3. Rector's presentation

The Rector informs the Board about his first 8 days in post, beginning from the paper he submitted after his third day in post.



The main priority in the period between now and the end of the year is, as previously discussed, working towards the updating of the Strategic Plan for the University. Linked to this, and as discussed at the previous Board meeting, he has communicating with staff and visiting them in their own departments to introduce himself and to listen to their views about their work and the University. He has also been meeting on a one-to-one basis with staff in the administration building and with other staff too. He has stressed that he wants to be seen to be present and also available to staff who want to meet with him, and a number of them have already been taking the opportunity to do so. He is stressing that this is a policy he will seek to continue with beyond his early period in post, and that he will look to meet with staff in their own departments twice a year.

He has made some early adjustment to the management group that meets every Tuesday morning, by including more staff from the central administration. He sees this as an important step in creating a Leadership Team within the University which can help to progress important business in a focused and co-ordinated way.

The Faculty of History and Social Sciences has no dean at this moment, so the rector has invited the senior staff to meet with him talk about how best to organize the faculty and to progress with the key business in the meantime. He hopes that bringing together the senior staff in the faculty in this way can help to create a better basis for running things in the future, perhaps with relevance across the University more widely, and that it may also provide a better basis for people to be willing to put themselves forward for the position of Dean in the future.

At the same time, the Rector has been starting to discuss with Leadership Team colleagues and others some of the key aspects of the functioning of the University which have become apparent or have been raised by staff. These include the system for 'line management' of staff, quality assurance systems, the regulatory framework for the University, IT systems and student information and the regular collation of information on staff publications, collaborations, public engagements, etc. These discussions are in line with recommendations which were made at the previous Board meeting.

The Rector was also planning to meet with students at an early point and would liaise with the student representative about that.

It was reported that the University is now recruiting to the communications/information post, which has been vacant for some time, and also that the Project/Innovation Office is currently affected by the absence on leave of the person who runs the office. Some of the relevant projects are being progressed by other staff, but the Rector is keen to find some additional staffing to assist in the meantime. The Rector stressed that there is less of a challenge in identifying things that need to be done than there is in identifying colleagues who are able to do them.

Finally, it was noted that there had been an unfortunate delay in finalising arrangements for tuition in Faroese for the Rector, but that some progress was now being made. The Rector is eager to make progress with learning the language.



Discussion of the Rector's Presentation

The Board members welcomed the Rector's presentation and offered some views and suggestions in response. Staff representatives indicated that the Rector's meetings with staff in their own departments had been well-received.

It was reported that the student council would be meeting the day after the Board, and that the students would then look to book a meeting with the Rector. Another Board member stressed the importance of speaking at an early point with the new government in the Faroe Islands early after it was announced, and also of speaking with the representatives of industry about what they would hope to see in future from the University. A further point that was made reinforced the Rector's focus on key aspects of the functioning of the organisation of the University, and of trying to ensure that there would be clear policies and procedures that staff would follow consistently across the departments.

4. Miscellaneous

The chair of the board informed that the rector and himself are travelling to Denmark next week to participate in a Regional Stakeholder Workshop on Horizon Europe Implementation in Nordic Countries. They will be joined by representative from the Faroese research council.

The University's Academic council is not active at this moment and has not been for some time. The rector is aware of this and will be looking into the reasons why it ceased to function and the potential value in bringing it back into operation.

Tomorrow (13th September) is the reception for Sigurð and Chik in Kongshøll. The managing director is having the opening speech.

Next meeting will be moved from 24th October to 1st November at 11 o'clock. The meeting plan for the upcoming year will be planned by the keeper of the minutes.

The Chair also asked for a schedule of meetings to be put in place for 2020.

Meeting ended at 12:00 o'clock.
